



**Florida Department of Health  
Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs  
Research Review and Advisory Committee Meeting**

**DATE AND TIME:** December 2, 2008 at 9:30 am

**PLACE:** Conference Call: 1-888-808-6959 conference code: 1454070#

**In the Tallahassee Area:**

State of Florida Department of Health: Southwood Complex  
4042 Bald Cypress Way, Room 240P  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1713  
(850) 245-4070 then hit 0 to speak with someone

This meeting is open to the public

**AGENDA:** FINAL 12/1/2008 Elke Ursin

1. Introductions and Housekeeping
2. Review Minutes of Meeting 11/6/2008
3. Brief Updates on Ongoing and Future Projects
4. Other Business
5. Public Comment
6. Closing Comments, Next Meeting, and Adjournment

## Research Review and Advisory Committee for the Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs

Approved Minutes of the Meeting held at the Southwood Office Complex and via Teleconference,  
Tallahassee, FL  
December 2, 2008  
Approved by RRAC 1/5/2009

### In attendance:

- **Committee Membership and Alternates:** Sam Averett (alternate, Septic Tank Industry); David Carter (chairman, member, Home Building Industry); Paul Davis (member, DOH-Environmental Health); Anthony Gaudio (member, Septic Tank Industry); Marc Hawes (alternate, Home Building Industry); Mike McInarnay (alternate, Septic Tank Industry); Bill Melton (member, Consumer); Jim Peters (alternate, Professional Engineer); Eanix Poole (alternate, Consumer); Patti Sanzone (alternate, Environmental Interest Group); Clay Tappan (member, Professional Engineer); and Pam Tucker (member, Real Estate Profession)
  - **Not represented:** Restaurant Industry, State University System
  - **Visitors:** Quentin (Bob) Beitel (Markham Woods Association); Josefin Edeback (Hazen and Sawyer); Terry Hansen (DEP); Bruce Higginbotham (FOWA member); John Higgins (Markham Woods Association); Mark Hooks; Daniel Smith (Applied Environmental Technology); Cory Mong (Economy Septic); Leonard Moore; Maria Pecoraro (Legislative Assistant to Representative Bryan Nelson); Walter Wood (Lake County)
  - **Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs:** Paul Booher; Eberhard Roeder; and Elke Ursin
1. **Introductions:** Seven out of nine groups were present, representing a quorum. Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. Some of the procedures on telephone etiquette and other housekeeping issues were addressed. Elke Ursin informed the committee that a decision has not yet been made on the Local Government Representative member and alternate appointments.
  2. **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Elke Ursin read Form 8A Memorandum of Voting Conflict for State Officers which was included in the minutes. Pam Tucker stated that she had not received her packet and will abstain from voting. Patti Sanzone made a correction to the date listed on page 2. Motion by Clay Tappan and seconded by Bill Melton to approve the minutes as amended.
  3. **Brief updates on other projects**
    - a) Ongoing projects
      - **Inventory Study** – Contract was executed on 12/1/08 and EarthSTEPS/GlobalMind is the provider. The first task is to collect and organize the data. Elke Ursin asked whether RRAC would like to see the Attachment I of the contract and there was a general consensus that they would like to see this document. This document will be sent to the RRAC. There was a question on what the schedule was for this project, and Elke Ursin stated that there will be regular updates from the provider and the completion

date for the contract is the end of June 2009 with a final report to the RRAC by end May.

- **Town of Suwannee Study** – Contract was executed on 12/1/08 and Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT) is the provider. This provider was the same provider that did the original study. The first task is to develop the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).
- **Optical Wastewater Tracers Study (old Remote Sensing of Optical Brighteners Study)** – Analysis of data ongoing. The provider would like to present on the results of this project at an upcoming RRAC meeting.
- **Manatee Springs, Performance of Onsite Systems Phase II Karst Study** – QAPP for Phase II has been drafted and is nearing execution. Currently working on the designs for the nutrient reducing systems.
- **Monroe County Performance Based Treatment System Performance Assessment** – Currently developing criteria for the next phase of sampling and then implementing the new sampling plan.
- **319 Project on Performance and Management of Advanced Onsite Systems** – Database of advanced systems task is anticipated to be completed by Bureau staff. Anticipate advertising and hiring a temporary position to help with this project in the very near future. A Request for Quotes was advertised 12/1/08 with responses due December 16<sup>th</sup> to design and conduct a survey of various user groups regarding advanced onsite systems. User groups range from homeowners, to installers, to manufacturers, to the county health departments. The request went out to universities with market research programs as well as state contract providers and other interested parties.

b) Projects coming up

- **Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study** – Currently in negotiations. There was a discussion on the progress report to the legislature. The final report is to be ready for DOH internal routing no later than January 6<sup>th</sup>. Draft will be available to RRAC as soon as possible. There was a discussion on the content of the report. David Carter stated that it was not practical for the RRAC to write the report, and that staff would be the ones to write the report for RRAC to comment on. There was general agreement that the report will be a status report detailing what has been done between June 2008 and the present (listing the steps for selecting a provider, the number of RRAC meetings, a comparison to the time spent on this procurement vs. other procurements) as well as details on Phase I of the project (what's involved, the tasks, the costs) and estimates for Phase II and III. Quentin Beitel with the Markham Wood Association asked whether the report would contain information on what funding will be requested for future years, and David Carter stated that that would be in the report. Mr. Beitel also wanted to know whether the report would have anything on the status of any current DOH administrative proposals regarding nitrogen reduction and onsite wastewater systems, and David Carter stated that this would be up to the department on whether they feel comfortable about making such a statement. Mr. Beitel also stated that this report is RRAC's responsibility, but that has been delegated to the department. His concern is that the report should reflect what RRAC wants. David Carter stated that it is difficult for the RRAC to do anything outside of the public meeting setting, and wordsmithing the document in one meeting would be very difficult

to do. Mr. Carter feels comfortable outlining to the staff what RRAC is looking for, allowing staff to write, and then commenting on the draft report. There was a discussion on whether it has been decided whether the \$1,000,000 allocated this fiscal year will be allowed to carry over until next year, and there has not been clarification on this issue at this time.

**4. Other Business – None.**

- a. **Public Comment – Alternative Drainfield Product Assessment** – There was a discussion on the North Carolina report on alternative drainfields and how that study may have answered many of the questions driving the need for this study. The report will be distributed to the RRAC to be discussed at a future meeting. Bill Melton stated that as the consumer representative, this issue is of concern to him. He would like to know how does the product that the endpoint consumer is using at the end point work. Anthony Gaudio requested that staff obtain information on the percentage of permits that are alternative drainfields vs. conventional aggregate systems. Elke Ursin stated that with the first contract for this project, she gathered much of that information. She stated that she will work on updating those numbers and get that to the RRAC. Anthony Gaudio stated that having both the North Carolina Study, and the Florida specific permit information, will help with making a decision on the future for this research priority.
  - b. **Long-term deformation of tanks of different materials** – Cory Mong stated that this project should be kept in the RRAC and not become a TRAP responsibility. He stated that the consumers are getting stuck with dealing with the failing tanks and the manufacturers are not doing anything about it. Paul Booher stated that the minutes for an ad-hoc committee meeting to solicit input from the representatives of manufacturers of polyethylene tanks held on October 28, 2008 would be available the beginning of the following week.
- 5. Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be scheduled for January 5 2009 by conference call at 2 p.m. to discuss in detail the progress report on the Nitrogen Reductions Strategies Study.

Anthony Gaudio made a motion which was seconded by Clay Tappan, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.



Department of Health  
Bureau of Onsite Sewage Programs  
Research Review and Advisory Committee

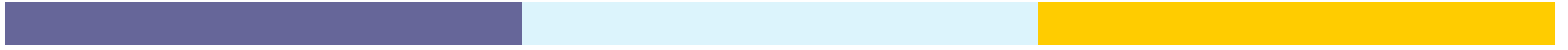
**Tuesday December 2, 2008**

**9:30 am - 12 pm**



# Agenda:

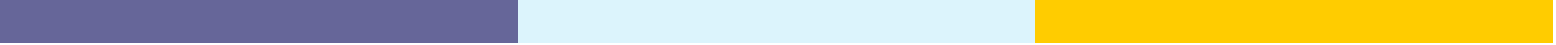
1. Introductions and Housekeeping
2. Review Minutes 11/6/08 Meeting
3. Updates on Ongoing and Future Projects
4. Other business
5. Public comment
6. Closing Comments, Next Meeting, and Adjournment



# Introductions & Housekeeping

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- Role call
- Identification of audience
- Teleconference etiquette
  - Identify yourself when speaking
- Changes to the RRAC:
  - The decision has not yet been made on Local Government Representative member and alternate appointments

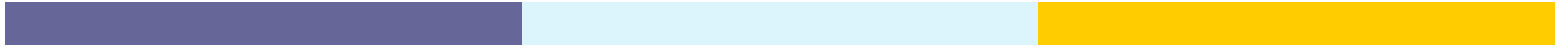


# Review Minutes of Meeting 11/6/2008

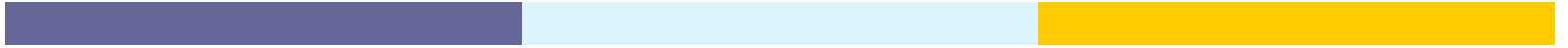
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- See draft minutes





# Ongoing projects



# Inventory Study

- Contract was executed on 12/1/08
- EarthSTEPS/GlobalMind is the provider
- First task is to collect and organize the data



# Town of Suwannee Study

- Contract was executed on 12/1/08
- Environmental Consulting & Technology (ECT) is the provider
- First task is to develop the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)



# Optical Wastewater Tracers Study (old Remote Sensing of Optical Brighteners Study)

**Purpose:** Test the feasibility of detecting wastewater inputs to Florida surface waters using optical characteristics such as optical brighteners from laundry detergents as tracers

**Progress:**

- Analysis of data ongoing



# Manatee Springs, Performance of Onsite Systems Phase II Karst Study

**Purpose:** Test the difference in water quality after nutrient reducing systems are installed in a Karst area

**Progress:**

- QAPP for Phase II has been drafted and is nearing execution
- Working on designs for nutrient reducing systems

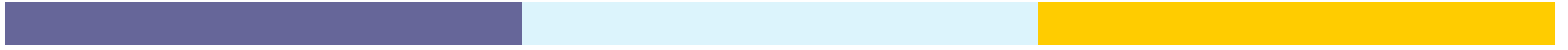


# Monroe County PBTS Assessment: Next Phase of Sampling in the Keys

**Purpose:** Evaluate effectiveness of  
Performance Based Treatment Systems in  
the Keys

**Progress:**

- Developing criteria for next phase and then implement the new sampling plan

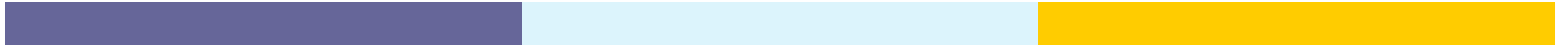


# 319 Project on Performance and Management of Advanced Onsite Systems

**Purpose:** Assess water quality protection by advanced onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems

**Progress:**

- Database of advanced systems:
  - Anticipated to be completed by Bureau staff
- Survey of user groups perceptions task:
  - Request for Quotes advertised 12/1/08 with responses due December 16<sup>th</sup>
- Anticipate advertising and hiring a temporary position to work on this project



# Upcoming projects





# Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study

- Currently in negotiations
- Discussion on progress report to legislature
  - Final report ready for DOH internal routing no later than January 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Draft can be made available to RRAC as soon as possible
  - Discussion on content of report



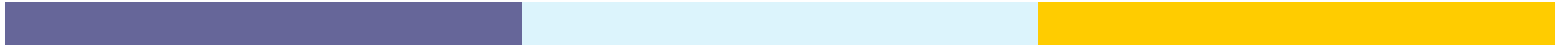
# Next Meeting

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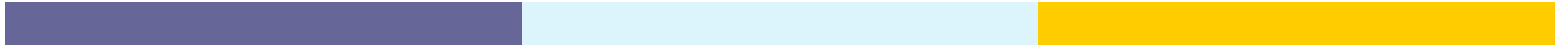
- Progress report to legislature due February 1, 2009 with recommendations for funding additional phases of nitrogen study

## Proposed dates for next meeting:

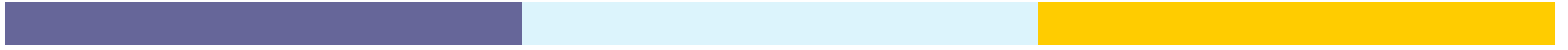
- January 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss progress report
- Discussion on setting aside a date for a monthly meeting until June
- Other suggestions?



# Other Business



# Public Comment



# Closing Comments and Adjournment

## Florida Department of Health (FDOH)

### Research Review and Advisory Committee (RRAC) Meeting Summary

#### Meeting on December 2, 2008, Teleconference at Southwood Complex, Tallahassee, FL

- **RRAC Members/Alternates Present:** Sam Averett, David Carter, Paul Davis, Anthony Gaudio, Marc Hawes, Mike McInarnay, Bill Melton, Jim Peters, Eanix Poole, Patti Sanzone, Clay Tappan, Pam Tucker. Seven out of nine groups were present, representing a quorum.
- **Review of Previous Meeting Minutes:** The minutes were approved with one correction on a date on page 2. Elke Ursin read Form 8A Memorandum of Voting Conflict for State Officers which was included in the minutes.
- **Brief updates on projects**
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procurements) as well as details on Phase I of the project (what's involved, the tasks, the costs) and estimates for Phase II and III.

- **Other Business** – None.
- **Public Comment**
  - **Alternative Drainfield Product Assessment** – There was a discussion on the North Carolina report on alternative drainfields and how that study may have answered many of the questions driving the need for this study. The report will be distributed to the RRAC to be discussed at a future meeting.
  - **Long-term deformation of tanks of different materials** – There was a discussion on whether this project should remain a RRAC issue or not. Paul Booher indicated that the minutes from the ad hoc committee discussed at the last meeting will be available next week. Public comment was closed during the Evaluation Team meeting for the ITN. When public comment was open they were allowed to comment.
- **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> by conference call at 2 p.m. to discuss in detail the progress report on the Nitrogen Reductions Strategies Study.